

AWAITING "BIG PUSH" IN BRITISH TRENCHES

Except for Mud and Occasional "Bullet Storms," Frederick Palmer Finds Men Comfortable, Preparing for Great Attack on Germans.

By FREDERICK PALMER.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 8.—"There you are and keep your head down. It's a fair target at that distance," said an officer who had come out of his shelter to meet us.

"Nineteen Days More." In naval circles it is stated that the resistance of the Dardanelles defenses is in now greater than was expected. The consensus of opinion is that the passage will be forced by the irresistible pressure of an enormous fleet, the exact extent of which is as yet unknown.

The report from Athens of the arrival at the strait of a sister ship of the giant Queen Elizabeth is not confirmed officially, but it is a very interesting fact, as the appearance of the Elizabeth herself was unexpected. Three dreadnoughts of her class—the Warspite, Barham, and Valiant—were expected for completion in 1915, and they have doubtless been hurried into commission.

The attacks on the strait are to continue until the end of the month. Naval officials estimate that thirty days will be required for the task. Since February 19, when the present operations were begun, there have been several days, so that in nineteen more good days the passage will have been forced, if the estimates prove accurate.

It is no longer a matter of question whether the Dardanelles will be passed but when. The attack is now in a critical stage and an advance beyond Chalik Point will not be made until all the important defenses on the Narrows have been put out of action and the mines cleared away.

The mine sweeping work is being done by Grimby trawlers under cover of fire from the battleships. Foreign reports that the Turkish forces are short of ammunition are not taken as evidence that the warships are not taking any chances. Nothing definite can be learned of the movements of the Turkish troops, but it is probable that considerable concentration has taken place on both sides of the strait.

The following despatch from Bagdad, received via Rome, was received here tonight: "According to reliable news from Turkey, numerous Greeks and Armenians have been arrested at Constantinople. Massacres are reported as occurring in the interior. The exodus of German military contingents from the Dardanelles, Gen. Liman von Sanders, the German commander of the Turkish forces, has been reported. The Sultan's sister, whose son, Idris Aeddin, was arrested on suspicion of plotting against his uncle, is dead of smallpox. The British do not believe the variables have been sent to Konia, where the capital will be established as soon as the allied fleet forces the Narrows.

The former German warships, Goeben and Breslau, have both been docked and the crews have been landed. It is reported that a report involving the abdication of the Sultan and the reinstatement of Abdul Hamid, the deposed ruler, is most likely.

SILENCE SMYRNA GUNS.

Admiralty Reports Slight Casualties in Bombardment.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, March 8.—The Admiralty has issued the following statement of the operations against Smyrna: "The Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Peirse, commander of the East India squadron, makes a further report of his operations before Smyrna. He says that having bombarded Fort Konak on March 5 and severely damaged it, he proceeded on the morning of March 6 to sweep his way through the mine fields until he drew the fire of several subsidiary batteries.

"One of these contained four 8 inch guns near Palo Taba Point, and another had five 6 inch guns. There were also several smaller guns concealed along the shore to the eastward. These were engaged by the main force of 7000 to 8000 yards. The batteries replied vigorously, but after one hour the fire of each was silenced. In the afternoon the ships steamed into closer range and engaged the Palo Taba battery and other batteries on the hill. The ships continued until 10 p.m. when the batteries were silenced. The flagship Buryat and one of the battleships were hit by six inch projectiles. The mine sweepers were hit by fragments of a shell that burst near by.

"Our casualties were slight. The operations are continuing."

DAMAGE TWO CRUISERS.

Turkish Naval Staff Reports Failure of Bombardment.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, March 8.—The Turkish Naval Staff claims that during the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts yesterday a French cruiser was put out of action and an English cruiser was badly damaged by shells from the forts. The Turkish statement, telegraphed here by way of Berlin, follows: "During Sunday afternoon the enemy's warships, including the Majestic and the Resolute, bombarded the forts of the Dardanelles. They suffered heavy damage.

"A French cruiser was put out of action. An English cruiser was also badly damaged. The enemy ceased firing within a few hours and withdrew. The Turkish batteries suffered no damage of any description.

"The British naval authorities made an emphatic denial of the Turkish claim that two vessels of the attacking fleet had been damaged. They said the ships had been obliged to withdraw. It was stated that the operations were continued throughout the day and that the ships did not leave the strait until nightfall.

A despatch from Sofia says the Bulgarian Minister at Constantinople is in Sofia to make a report on the situation in Turkey. Ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs Ghenadoff is also expected to return from his recent mission to Rome shortly. It seems likely that the Bulgarian Cabinet will be reconstructed to include some of the opposition members. The Russian side, replied to the attacks on the Dardanelles can be settled once for all.

FRENCH OFFICIAL NEWS.

Allied Fleet Renews Bombardment of Dardanelles Defences.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. PARIS, March 8.—A communiqué issued tonight by the French Ministry of Marine gives details of the operations in the Dardanelles. It follows: "The four French battleships Suffren, Ganteaux, Courbet and Bouvet and the British battleships Buryat and Lord Nelson entered the Dardanelles on March 7. While the English ships bombarded at long range the forts of the Narrows, the French ships covered this operation by bombarding the batteries of Forts Dardanelles and Bouvet. The Turkish cannon, which were reduced to silence.

"Port Mouron, Modjdelah-Taba, on the Bulgarian side, and Port Haniouk, on the Turkish side, were hit by the fire of the English battleships, but were also destroyed."

900 TURKS KILLED IN SYRIA.

Several Shells Among Victims of Battle With British.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, March 8.—The Government has received further details from the British Ministry of War of the losses of the Turkish and Indian troops in the battle with the British and Indian forces in the Taurus mountains. The losses included several important shocks of the rebellious tribesmen.

The losses of the Turkish and Indian troops at Nakala were 900 killed and 600 wounded.

RUSSIANS SHELL PORTS.

Black Sea Fleet Silences Batteries and Sinks Ships.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, March 8.—The official press bureau gave out the following statement tonight: "The following has been received from the Russian Ministry of War: 'On the night of March 7, the Black Sea Fleet, under the command of Admiral Zvonigorod, bombarded the Turkish coast, sinking several ships and causing heavy damage to the shore batteries. The Russian ships were not damaged.'

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FRENCH STILL GAIN IN THE CHAMPAGNE

Report Capture of Trenches and Prisoners Despite Snowstorm.

SUCCESS ALSO IN ALSACE

Summary of the War News.

The British Admiralty announced that the bombardment of the Dardanelles has reached the narrows, fifteen miles in, where two forts have been silenced by the long range guns of the allied warships. It is reported that the superdreadnought Queen Elizabeth is using a range of nearly twelve miles over the mountains and doing wonderful work with her fifteen inch shells.

It is announced from Athens that M. Zamas, whom King Constantine asked to form a new Ministry in succession to Prime Minister Venizelos, has declined to do so. The King has asked Deputy Gounaris to act. The war spirit in Greece continues to grow more intense and crowds patrol the streets demanding intervention.

The French official statements announce progress in the Champagne district and in the Vosges. The principal advances were in the vicinity of Pertines and about St. Mihiel.

Berlin reports gains in both the eastern and western war zones. Russia's official statement announces that the German drive toward Warsaw from the southwest has been checked at Nowo-Miasto. There is fighting along the entire eastern battle front, with success going to the Russians.

Details of an arrangement made in London between the British Government and American cotton shippers have been made public. It is reported that cotton cargoes consigned to Germany will not be allowed to reach their destination, but that under certain conditions cotton cargoes may be shipped to neutral countries.

FRENCH STILL GAIN IN THE CHAMPAGNE

Fighting in Snowstorm Take Trenches and Prisoners.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. PARIS, March 8.—Two very encouraging statements of the progress of the operations in the Champagne district were issued by the War Office today. Both showed progress in the Champagne district and also in the Vosges and in Alsace. The principal advances seemed to be in the vicinity of Pertines and about St. Mihiel. Progress was also reported about St. Mihiel. The night communiqué said:

"In Champagne, the snowstorm has hampered the operations. The enemy this morning attempted to recapture the wood carried by us yesterday west of Pertines. Our counter offensive enabled us to take ground north and east, and we took some prisoners. This forward movement was continued and accentuated this afternoon. In the region of Pertines we gained over 500 meters of trenches. In the region of St. Mihiel, in the Bois Brûlé and the forest of Apremont we gained a footing in one of the enemy's trenches. In the wood of Le Prieux, to the northwest of Pont-a-Mousson, the Germans attempted an attack, but it was repulsed."

"Our progress continued in the region of Madonviller. In Alsace at Reichenackerkopf we repulsed a counter attack."

"The day communiqué told of violent fighting at Reichenackerkopf, in which the French remained masters after violent hand to hand fighting. It also told of a French victory on the Meuse. The communiqué read:

"There is nothing of importance in the Champagne section to add to the communiqué of the night. The fighting at different points is continued. At the end of the day we captured trenches to the northwest of St. Mihiel. The fighting continued between Pertines and Boussoult. The French captured a number of prisoners, including officers."

"In the region of the heights of the Meuse our heavy artillery, according to prisoners, seriously damaged the enemy's positions. The French placed in position by the Germans. This gain had to be dismantled and sent to the rear for repairs. Four of the guns were killed and seven wounded."

"In the Vosges, at Reichenackerkopf, the Germans made a violent counter attack late Sunday afternoon. For the first time the enemy got a footing on the ridge, but after a furious hand to hand fight our men drove them back and finally recaptured the position. The losses sustained by the enemy were extremely heavy."

"In Upper Alsace, southwest of the town of Hagenau, the Germans made an attack against our advanced positions. This was dispersed by the fire of our infantry."

WOMEN SPIES ESCAPE DEATH.

French President Commutes Sentences of Several.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. PARIS, March 8.—President Poincaré has commuted the sentence of several women spies who had been condemned to death by court-martial. The recent case is that of a woman named Moreau, who was condemned for giving information aiding designs of the enemy. A father, one of whose sons had been killed, and a second is still fighting, writes to *L'Humanité* that such leniency favors the enemy and may cost thousands of lives. He says that all leniency should be set aside where such offenses are in question.

"Announced this morning today, however, that there were special reasons for commuting the sentences of the women. Joffre, M. Briand, Minister of Justice, and M. Millerand, Minister of War, approved of the President's decision."

President Poincaré has remitted the death penalty during the hostilities. In some of the interior districts and in the Canary Islands the people get food only every other day. Many are said to be living on herbs and roots.

At Laeche, where the price of grain was raised, there were riots. The riotous guards are reported to have fired into the mobs, killing one person and wounding many. A woman is said to have drowned herself and children at Laeche because she was driven mad by starvation.

FOOD RIOTS IN SPAIN OF DAILY OCCURRENCE

Many in the Interior Districts Said to Be Living on Herbs and Roots.

Madrid, March 8.—The situation resulting from the lack of food and economic privations is rapidly becoming more serious throughout the country and the Government is taking steps to take extreme measures to prevent a serious catastrophe.

Despatches from the provinces say that riots are of daily occurrence and that the authorities have increased difficulties in maintaining control of affairs. In some of the interior districts and in the Canary Islands the people get food only every other day. Many are said to be living on herbs and roots.

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GERMANS REPROACH PAGE

"World's Work" Interview With Chancellor Reprinted in England.

The German Press Bureau in New York yesterday wrote an article in which the American *World's Work* magazine is accused of a breach of courtesy in that it reprinted the English publication of the same name, an article by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg explaining the German position in the war. The bureau quoted the article as having been once in a while at present a partner in the firm of Page & Co., publishers of the magazine.

It is asserted that the Imperial Chancellor, at the solicitation of the American magazine, wrote the article and thought that it would appear in a magazine of the enemy. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* of February 15, an article by the German Ambassador in London, the action of this organ (the American *World's Work*) in abusing the honor accorded by the German Government to the German press is a new proof of how closely the English and the American press are allied."

It was said at the book shop of Doubleday, Page & Co. yesterday that Walter Hines Page was no longer vice-president of the company but was a shareholder. There was uncertainty as to whether or not he is still a director.

ENGLAND LETS OLD GERMANS LEAVE.

LONDON, March 8.—An announcement was made in Parliament this afternoon that Germans under 17 and over 55 years of age and Austro-Hungarians under 16 and over 54 years of age are permitted to return to their respective countries under arrangements just completed.

GERMAN OFFENSIVE IN POLAND CHECKED

Russians Begin Counter Attack Near the Piltza, Says Petrograd.

AUSTRIAN ASSAULTS FAIL

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PETROGRAD, March 8.—The official statement of the General Staff tonight tells of the continuance of desperate fighting all along the eastern battle front, in which the attacks of the Germans or the Austrians have been repulsed. The statement follows:

"We have repulsed an attack of the enemy in the region of Suwalki. Along the Marjampol-Simno and Augustowa front our offensive continued. There is no essential change on the right bank of the Narva."

"The Germans have been compelled to stop their offensive undertaken in the region of the Piltza River, on the left bank of the Vistula. We have begun a counter attack."

"In the Carpathians the Austrians have ceased their attacks in the region of Sudnik and retired from contact with our positions, but they continue their barren assaults on our positions in the direction of Baligród."

"Fresh attacks by the enemy in the region of the Koszowa and Dudaia roads, to the west of the Piltza, have been repulsed. In the region of Klausen we surrounded a small force of the enemy by outflanking their column, and captured one entire battalion surrendered."

SILENCE GERMAN GUNS.

Ossowiec Fortress Puts Two Batteries Out of Action.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, March 8.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs: "Although it is dangerous for Field Marshal von Hindenburg to remain in front of Ossowiec any longer, his attacks were continuing at a late hour last night."

"The method he has adopted of attempting to reduce the fortress consists of an intense concentration of artillery fire followed by infantry attacks. The Russian guns have been silenced by the effect of the enemy's heavy guns out of action."

"The Petrograd correspondent of the *Times* writes: 'The Russian army, which won such praise for its speed in the first Mazurian drive, is now rapidly retreating through the Augustowa woods. The German left flank must now retire.' He continues: 'Beyond Simno and Lepany, it is likely that they will make another stand about fifty miles to the westward. The Russians are now sweeping about three German army corps before them.'

"The correspondent referring to the new operations to the westward states that there is a likelihood of their being important, but up to this time the Russian troops have been shifting their troops thither. Such a manoeuvre, he says, is being impeded by the successful Russian movements in the southern Galicia, where cavalry detachments which advanced isolated against a wing of our position effected a severe breach."

LISBON FEARS SECESSION RIOTS.

Government Sends Cruiser to Oporto, Is Reported.

LISBON, March 8.—The institution of the "Republic of Northern Portugal" under the Presidency of Gen. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar and the resignation of the Minister of Finance, Senhor Galhardo, which became known yesterday, have resulted in the general demand for the formation of a national coalition cabinet. It is reported that all parties as a means of relieving the very serious political situation.

"In the meantime fears of rioting are increasing and the government is preparing for emergencies. It is reported that the cruiser Alcantara has been sent to Oporto as a measure of precaution in connection with the formation of the new republic."

BRITISH COLLIER DESTROYED.

Submarine Torpedoed the Bengrove, but Crew Is Saved.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, March 8.—The Admiralty has received tonight from the British Submarine Force a report that the Bengrove, a collier, was torpedoed yesterday in the Channel, probably by a German submarine. The Bengrove was a screw steamer of 2,800 tons, built at Glasgow in 1914 and was owned by Joseph Houll & Co. Ltd.

"The Admiralty statement says: 'The Bengrove was torpedoed by a German submarine at 2 p.m. on Sunday. The crew of thirty-three was saved. They took to the boats and were rescued by the steamship Paignton and landed at Brixham, Devon.'

SAYS U. S. AIDS ALLIES' PIRACY.

Vienna Paper Comments on Dutch Refusal of Shipments.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. VIENNA, March 8.—A Vienna paper has taken exception to a statement by the American government that it is not in support of piracy. The paper says that the United States is aiding piracy by refusing to allow its ships to be used for the transport of goods destined for the United States unless they are not in support of piracy. The paper says that the United States is aiding piracy by refusing to allow its ships to be used for the transport of goods destined for the United States unless they are not in support of piracy.

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GERMANS GAIN ON BOTH FRONTS

Berlin Reports Successful Attack Against French Near Le Mesnil.

REPLUSE RUSSIAN MOVES.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

BERLIN, via London, March 8.—Gains in north and western and eastern war zones are reported by army headquarters today. The official statement follows:

"In the Western Zone. The fighting in the Champagne district continued last night. West of the Marjampol-Simno and Augustowa front our offensive continued. There is no essential change on the right bank of the Narva."

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CUT IN CUNARD RATE CAUSED BY U. S. FLAG

Not Ticket War, Is Cause of \$50 Cabin Price.

THE PRICE IS NOW \$53

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, March 8.—The Cunard Line announced today that the minimum rate for second class passage on all its steamships, including the Lusitania, would be \$50 after this date. It is said here that the reduction has been necessary to prevent further diversion of traffic to steamships flying the American flag.

The former rate on all Cunarders since the beginning